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63445

SECT 01 OF 63441

ACTION

DIA:

SECT 1+2 OF 2

DISTR

CJCS DJS J3(14) J5(02) J3:NMCC SECDEF(07) SECDEF:

ASD:ISA(10) :DIA(15) NMIC

- CMC WASHINGTON DC
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- CSA WASHINGTON DC
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- SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
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TRANSIT/171459Z/171834Z/003:35TOR3211827

DE RUESBAA #0576 3211700

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P 171459Z NOV 77

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ/SCJ2-AD

RULPAFA/24 COMPW/IN HOWARD AFB CZ

RUEFHQA/USAF WASHDC/XOXXW/CVAFL

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ NOFORN #0576 SECTION 1 OF 2 NOV 77

SUBJ: THIS IS IR (b)(3):10 USC 424

1. ARGENTINA (AR)

2. (b)(3):10 USC 424

3. (U) MILITARY AFFAIRS - ARGENTINE AIR FORCE SEES DETERIORATION
IN MILITARY RELATIONS

4. N/A

5. 771104

6. 771111

7. 771104, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

8. (b)(3):10 USC 424

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10.

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PAGE 1

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Date: Oct 19, 2018

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303615AR
302100AR
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302160AR
303618AR
303700AR
303606AR

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PAGE 2

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12 (b)(3):10 USC 424

13

14

15. ~~SIRB: NO - NOFORN TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVT.~~

16. SUMMARY: ~~(S,NOFORN)~~ ARGENTINE UER FORCE LEADERSHIP PERCEIVES A SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN MILITARY RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND ARGENTINA. LOSS OF ACCESS TO TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT, LINKED TO USG HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, ARE SEEN AS PRINCIPAL REASONS. THIS DETERIORATION IS A SERIOUS CONCERN FOR AIR FORCE LEADERSHIP.

22. DETAILS: 1. ~~(S,NOFORN)~~

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

BRIG AGOSTI AND THE ENTIRE ARGAF LEADERSHIP IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE DETERIORATION OF MILITARY-TO-MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE ARGAF AND XYE USAF. SOURCE A SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE ARGENTINE MILITARY HAVE TRIED TO SEPARATE THE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONFLICTS CONCERNED WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION FROM THE MILITARY-TO-MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS, OVER A PERIOD OF TIME THE MILITARY RELATIONSHIP HAS DETERIORATED BECAUSE THE GOA HAS BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO TRAINING AND US MILITARY EQUIPMENT. ACCORDING TO SOURCE A, THE ARGAF CONSIDERS THAT THE RELATIONSHIP WILL CONTINUE TO GO DOWN HILL, DESPITE ARGAF ATTEMPTS TO SLOW THE PROCESS.

2. ~~(S,NOFORN)~~ THE EXAMPLES THAT SOURCES A AND B USED TO HIGH LIGHT THEIR CASE WERE THE TERMINATION OF EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, THE REDUCTION IN TRAINING IN THE CONUS, AND THE REDUCED ACCESS TO US SOURCES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. IN SUMMARIZING HIS POINTS, SOURCE B SAID THAT THESE REDUCTIONS IN CONTACT ARE RESULTING IN A LOSS OF ARGAF UNDERSTANDING OF THE USAF AND THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY AT THE MID CAREER LEVEL OF OFFICERS. SOURCE A EMPHASIZED THE IMPACT OF THIS LOSS OF UNDERSTANDING BY TELLING

Sec. 3.3(b) (1) WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE OR SIX YEARS ALL THE SENIOR ARGAF OFFICERS WHO HAD EXTENSIVE TRAINING IN THE US WOULD BE RETIRED. THE OFFICERS TAKING THEIR PLACES WOULD NOT HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE UNITED STATES. YOUNGER OFFICERS, IN THE FORMATIVE YEARS OF THEIR CAREERS, WOULD BE

PAGE 2

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PAGE 3

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63445

GETTING EXPOSURE TO EUROPEAN CULTURES AND TRAINING, RATHER THAN TO THE AMERICAN MILITARY AND ITS SOCIETY. SOURCE B EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF BOTH THE GOA AND THE USG, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE ARGENTINE MILITARY WILL BE IN CONTROL OF THE ARGENTINE SOCIETY FOR THE REST OF THE CENTURY, FOR THE FUTURE MILITARY LEADERSHIP TO HAVE EXPOSURE TO THE AMERICAN SOCIETAL SYSTEM.

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Date: Oct 19, 2018

PAGE 3

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SECT 02 OF 63441

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/NOFORN 0576 SECTION 2 OF 2 NOV 77

3. ~~(NOFORN)~~ INADDRESSING THE CASE OF LOSS OF ACCESS TO US MILITARY EQUIPMENT, SOURCE A, AND LATER SOURCE C, HIGHLIGHTED THE REQUEST FOR EIGHT BELL 212S AS AN EVENT TIED TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES OF THE USG, WHICH HAD CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO THE MILITARY-TO-MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. SOURCE A, LESS EMOTIONAL ABOUT THE BELL CASE THAN WAS SOURCE C, SAID THE ARGAF AND THE GOA PERCEIVED THAT THE USG HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT THE SALE WOULD BE APPROVED, AND THEN HAD GONE BACK ON ITS WORD BY PUTTING CONDITIONS ON THE SALE THAT NO SOVEREIGN NATION COULD ACCEPT. SOURCE B ADDED THAT THE BELL SITUATION HAD CAUSED A GREAT DEAL OF "BAD BLOOD" WITHIN THE ARGAF AT ALL LEVELS. ALTHOUGH MOST OFFICERS RECOGNIZE THAT THE USG, AND NOT THE USAF, HAD MADE THE DECISIONS CONCERNING THE BELL CASE, THERE WAS A DEFINITE SPILLOVER OF BAD WILL TOWARD THE USAF AS A PART OF THE

PAGE 1

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Authority: EO 13526

DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices

Date: Oct 19, 2018

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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PAGE 2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

63441

USG. SOURCE A WENT ON TO SAY THAT WITHIN THE ARGAF THERE IS A GROWING PERCEPTION THAT THE US IS NO LONGER A RELIABLE SOURCE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING; THEREFORE, THEY QUESTION WHY A CLOSE BOND OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO AIR FORCES SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

4. ~~(S,NOFORN)~~ ALL THREE SOURCES AGREED THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION IS UNDESIRABLE, AND NEEDS TO BE CORRECTED. SOURCE A AND B PROPOSED THAT IN LIGHT OF REDUCED CONTACT THROUGH TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT, THE CONTACTS MAINTAINED THROUGH THE SYSTEM OF COOPERATION AMONG THE AMERICAN AIR FORCES (SICOFAM) AND THE INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD (IADB) AND COLLEGE (IADC) WOULD HAVE TO BE REINFORCED. SOURCE B SUGGESTED THAT DURING THE FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE OF CHIEFS OF THE AIR FORCES OF THE AMERICAS (CONJEFAMER) TO BE HELD IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, IN APRIL 1978, INCREASED CONTACT BETWEEN THE AIR FORCES SHOULD BE A SUBJECT FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. SOURCES A AND B SAID THAT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY BENEFICIAL FOR THE ARGAF.

COMMENT: ~~(S,NOFORN)~~ THESE DISCUSSIONS, OR MORE APPROPRIATELY LABELED LECTURES, ON THE DETERIORATION OF MILITARY-TO-MILITARY RELATIONS, APPARENTLY REFLECT REAL CONCERN AMONG THE ARGAF LEADERSHIP THAT WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE A LONG STANDING CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE USAF HAS BEEN DAMAGED. THE OPINIONS AND VIEWS OF SOURCE A ARE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE HE IS A PRINCIPAL ADVISOR TO THE CINC.

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

HIS CONCERN IS THAT ARGAF LEADERSHIP IN THE FUTURE WILL NOT HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE EXPOSURE AND UNDERSTANDING HAS.

(b)(3):10 USC 424 COMMENT: ~~(S,NOFORN)~~ FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ARGENTINE MILITARYS INTEREST IN DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE SOURCES FOR ARMS SEE IN (b)(3):10 USC 424 WHICH REPORTS ON THE POSSIBLE OPENING OF SEVERAL NEW ATTACHE POSTS, SOME OF WHICH ARE IN COUNTRIES CAPABLE OF EXPORTING ARMS. THIS MSG COORD W/EMBASSY.

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PAGE 2

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